

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 SPC-03 SAM-01 AID-20

NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01

CEA-02 COME-00 OIC-04 AEC-11 AECE-00 IO-14 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01

L-03 H-03 NIC-01 AGR-20 INT-08 FEA-02 SCI-06 /219 W

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P R 071530Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3752

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0084

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, LU, FR

SUBJ: ENER*Y: LUXEMBOURG VIEWS ON EC POSITION AT

ENERGY CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: THORN COMMENTED THAT THE EC COMMON POSITION
AT THE WASHINGTON ENERGY MEETING WAS EXTREMELY FRAGILE

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AND MIGHT BREAK UNDER THE PRESSURE OF INTERNAL DISSENSION.

HE ASSERTED THAT FRANCE IS BASICALLY FEARFUL OF ANY POSITIVE RESULTS COMING FROM THE CONFERENCE AND WILL BE NEGATIVE THROUGHOUT. THORN SAID THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE US TO EMPLOY A STRATEGY WHICH WOULD CONVINCE MOST OF THE EC MEMBERS OF THE MERITS OF THE US APPROACH. HE MENTIONED THAT TOO MUCH PRESSURE WOULD CAUSE A STIFFER ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF EC REPRESENTATIVES. THORN HAS PUBLICLY CRITICIZED FRENCH RESISTANCE TO ANY MEANINGFUL FOLLOW-UP AFTER THE CONFERENCE AND HAS REJECTED PUBLICLY FRENCH SUGGESTION TO USE THE UN AS A FORUM FOR ENERGY DISCUSSIONS. END SUMMARY

1. ON FEBRUARY 7 I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER GASTON THORN TO GET HIS VIEWS ON THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE. THORN BEGAN BY OBSERVING THAT NO EC MEMBER CAN NOW SAY WHETHER THE VAGUE FRAMEWORK FOR THE EC MANDATE WHICH WAS AGREED ON IN BRUSSELS THIS WEEK WOULD ACTUALLY RESIST THE STRESSES OF THE WASHINGTON ENERGY MEETING. THORN SAID THAT HE WAS PROBABLY THE MOST DISAPPOINTED OF THE EC NINE FOREIGN MINISTERS WITH A MANDATE HE CHARACTERIZED AS A "FRAIL SEMBLANCE OF UNITY" AND "THE LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR WE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO ACCEPT FOR A LONG TIME".

2. COMMENTING AT LENGTH ON THE FRENCH POSITION, THORN SAID THAT PARIS WAS IRREVOCABLY COMMITTED TO A NEGATIVE STANCE AT THE WASHINGTON ENERGY MEETING. JOBERT WILL DO HIS BEST TO PROVE TO THE EC THAT THE ENERGY CONFERENCE IDEA IS UNPRODUCTIVE AND THAT WASHINGTON IS BASICALLY INTERESTED IN DIVIDING THE EC. JOBERT TOLD THORN IN BRUSSELS THIS WEEK THAT THE FRENCH FEARED AN OPEN CLASH WITHIN THE EC IN WASHINGTON. JOBERT ADDED THE THREAT THAT HE MIGHT HAVE TO "WALK OUT OF THE CONFERENCE" NOT TO PROTEST AGAINST US POSITIONS BUT TO PROVE TO FRANCE'S EC PARTNERS THAT PARIS WOULD NOT TOLERATE ANY DEVIATION FROM ITS OWN INTERPRETATION OF EC SOLIDARITY. THORN SAID THAT THE FRENCH MAY TRY TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT PARIS COULD TOLERATE SOME INCONSEQUENTIAL FOLLOW-UP TO THE WASHINGTON MEETING, BUT THE FOREIGN MINISTER CAUTIONED US NOT TO BELIEVE THAT JOBERT WILL AGREE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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ANYTHING POSITIVE OF A CONCRETE NATURE.

3. IN MAPPING OUT OUR STRATEGY AT THE CONFERENCE, THORN ADVISED THAT WE DIRECT OUR PROPOSALS BETWEEN TWO EXTREMES: 1) THE TEMPTATION TO OVER-ACCOMMODATE THE FRENCH WHO, WHILE FLATTERED BY US ATTENTION, WILL NOT BUDGE FROM A MINIMAL POSITION; AND 2) PUSHING TOO HARD ON THE FEW ISSUES, LIKE FORMAL INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF

THE EAG, ON WHICH THE EC REALLY DOES HAVE A COMMON POSITION DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE US. ON THE QUESTION OF INSTITUTIONALIZATION, THORN SAID THAT A MAJORITY OF THE EC WOULD GO ALONG WITH THE CREATION OF NON-PERMANENT WORKING GROUPS TO STUDY SPECIFIC PROBLEMS. BY AVOIDING THE ABOVE EXTREMES, THORN PREDICTED THAT THE US COULD PROBABLY BRING ALONG 6 OR 7 OF THE EC COUNTRIES ON MOST ISSUES.

4. ALTHOUGH THE US CAN OF COURSE EXPECT THE MOST TROUBLE FROM THE FRENCH, THORN SAID THAT WE SHOULD ALSO WATCH OUT FOR THE BRITISH AND IRISH. THORN DESCRIBED BRITISH PRIME MINISTER HEATH AS "MORE GAULLIST EVERY DAY" AND SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTER DOUGLAS-HOME DOES NOT HAVE THE POWER TO RESIST THIS CURRENT OF ANTI-AMERICANISM IN OFFICIAL BRITISH POLICY. WHILE THORN FINDS THE IRISH SUBJECTIVELY PRO-AMERICAN, HE SAID THAT WE CAN EXPECT DUBLIN TO OFTEN LINE UP WITH LONDON AND PARIS AGAINST US IN WASHINGTON. HE SAID THAT THE IRISH WERE OBSESSED WITH THE NEED FOR BRITISH GOOD WILL SO AS TO REACH AN ACCEPTABLE POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND WERE ALSO INTENT ON RETAINING FRENCH GOOD WILL SO THAT PARIS WILL ASSIST DUBLIN IN RESISTING US ATTEMPTS TO MODIFY THE CAP.

5. IN A LUXEMBOURG PRESS INTERVIEW ON FEBRUARY 7, THORN OPENLY CRITICIZED THE FRENCH POSITIONS ON CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP AND ON USING THE UN AS A FORUM FOR AN ENERGY MEETING. ON THE FIRST SUBJECT, THORN CALLED FOR FRENCH FLEXIBILITY, POINTING OUT THAT THERE IS NOTHING INCOMPATIBLE BETWEEN EUROPEAN AUTONOMY AND COOPERATION WITH THE US ON ENERGY MATTERS. ON THE SECOND SUBJECT, THORN SAID THAT HE WAS CONVINCED LONG AGO BY THE FRENCH

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THEMSELVES THAT THE UN WAS INCAPABLE OF SERVING AS A FORUM FOR THE IMPORTANT PROBLEMS OF OUR TIME. HE SUGGESTED THAT WHILE PARIS MAY HAVE TEMPORARILY FORGOTTEN THIS LESSON, LUXEMBOURG HAS NOT. FARKAS

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